

# THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 5  
November 6

Saul, David & Solomon

David Becomes  
King in Israel  
2 Samuel 1-9

Even though David was anointed by Samuel all the way back in **1 Samuel 16**, as the book of *2 Samuel* begins, he's still not recognized by all in Israel as the next king. The men of Judah anoint him as "king over the house of Judah" in **2 Samuel 2:4**, but in **2:8-11**, Abner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and made him king over the rest of Israel.

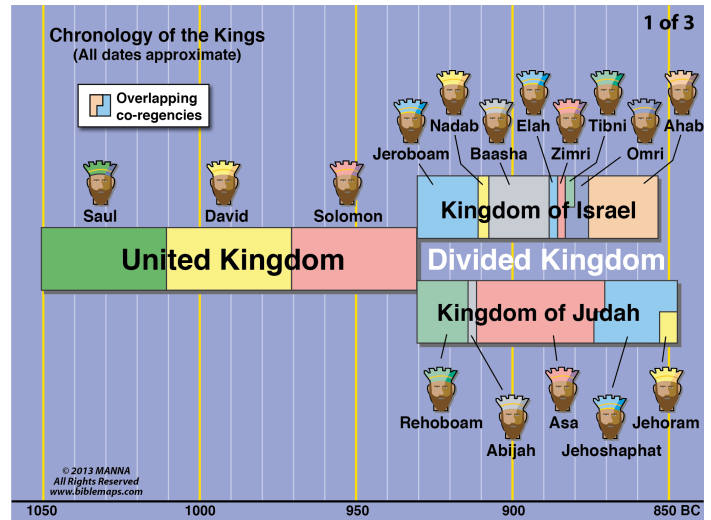
There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker. (**3:1**)

Eventually, after a great deal of bloodshed, all the tribes of Israel recognize David as "king over Israel" in **5:1-5**. In **5:6-10**, King David and his men capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites. As the city is turned into David's capital, it becomes known as "Zion, the city of David" (**5:7**).

In **2 Samuel 6**, David is anxious to bring the ark of the covenant to his new capital. Having gathered 30,000 men of Israel, he has the ark transported on a new cart pulled by oxen and driven by two men. While great celebration is going on, "Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God" (**6:6-7**). Failing to listen to God (**Num 4:11-15**) came with terrible consequences.

In **2 Samuel 7**, as David lived in his house of cedar, he started thinking about building a permanent house for the ark of God. The LORD made clear this wasn't his plan, but he did promise to provide David an heir who would "build a house" and have a kingdom that would last forever.

In **2 Samuel 9**, David shows great kindness to a son of Jonathan named Mephibosheth. We've been given lots to talk about, so let's dig in...



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why do you think Abner, commander of Saul's army, would have taken Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and made him king (2:8-9)?
  
- 2 Samuel 5:7 is the first time we hear of "Zion" in the Bible, but we hear and sing that name quite a bit today. What does "Zion" come to mean to the people of God?
  
- In 2 Samuel 6:1-8, how did David get himself and others in a great deal of trouble? He asked an important question in 6:9. What was the answer (notice 6:13)? What should we take away from this incident?
  
- What does David want to do in 2 Samuel 7:1-2? And what advice did he get from Nathan the prophet in 7:3? Was it good advice? Notice what the LORD said in 7:4-7. Is there anything we can learn from the LORD's response?
  
- The LORD makes a very significant promise to David in 7:8-17. Who is he talking about? How can we know? Let's notice what David wrote in Psalm 110. Is he talking about anyone greater than his son Solomon, the eventual third king of Israel?
  
- David prays a beautiful prayer of gratitude in 7:18-29. What stands out to you?
  
- What sort of window into David's heart does 2 Samuel 9 provide?